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Annual Report

ON

The Health of the Area

VITAL STATISTICS
SANITARY WORKS
ETC.

for the Year 1957

The Chronicle Press (Ilfracombe), Ltd., Northfield Rd.

BARNSTAPLE RURAL DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

ON

THE HEALTH OF THE AREA

VITAL STATISTICS
SANITARY WORKS
ETC.
for the Year 1957

By

Dr. F. J. H. MARTIN

(M.R.C.S. Eng., L.R.C.P. Lond., D.P.H. Oxon.)

Medical Officer of Health

and

ARTHUR J. DENNIS

Chief Public Health Inspector

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The Health Department,
The Red House,
Castle Street,
Barnstaple,
September, 1958.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Barnstaple Rural District Council.

Mrs. Trebble and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit to you the Report upon the Public Health of the Barnstaple Rural District for the year 1957.

Your obedient Servant,

FRANK MARTIN,
Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Part Time Officer :

Medical Officer of Health: Dr. F. J. H. Martin, M.R.C.S. Eng., L.R.C.P. Lond., D.P.H. Oxon.

Whole Time Officers :

Chief Public Health Inspector, Building Surveyor and Engineer } A. J. Dennis, M.A.P.H.I., C.R.S.H.

Additional Public Health Inspector: F. A. Lethbridge, M.R.S.H.

Second Public Health Inspector: T. Bennett, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.

Articled Pupils: N. J. Dennis
N. Venner

Clerks ... ... { Mrs. J. Kelly, Miss S. Stacey

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The chief occupations of the district are:—

1. Agriculture
2. Catering for Visitors
3. Market Gardening

The locality may be regarded as purely non-industrial, and employment is on the whole steady.

1957

ANNUAL REPORT

of the Medical Officer of Health for the Barnstaple Rural District

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in Acres	129,346
Population (Registrar-General's Mid-Year Estimate)	24,010
Inhabited Houses	7,417
Rateable Value	£226,767
Value of a Penny Rate (Estimate)	£906 5s. 4d.

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	183	174	357
Illegitimate	5	7	12
			369

Birth Rate per 1,000 Population 15.36

Still Births	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	5	3	8
Illegitimate	—	—	—
			8

Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births 21.22

Deaths	Male	Female	Ttotal
	155	145	300

Death Rate per 1,000 Population 12.49

The table below shows the comparative figures for Barnstaple Rural District Council and England and Wales.

	Birth Rate per 1,000 population		Death Rate per 1,000	Infant Mortality per 1,000 Live Births	
	Live Births	Still Births		Deaths under 1 year	Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years
Barnstaple Rural Dist.	17.51	.33	10.86	21.67	—
England and Wales	16. 1	—	11. 5	23. 0	—

The local Birth and Death Rates are shown above corrected by the area comparability factor.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	3	4	7
Illegitimate	—	1	1
			8

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	3	2	5
Illegitimate	—	—	—
			5

Local Deaths over 65 years

65 — 69 ...	22	85 — 89 ...	22
70 — 74 ...	46	90 — 94 ...	15
75 — 79 ...	53	95 plus ...	1
80 — 84 ...	53		
		Total	212

Deaths from Measles (all ages) 0

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) 0

Deaths from Diarrhoea under 2 years 0

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1957

	Males	Females
Tuberculosis—Respiratory	—	1
Other	1	—
Malignant Neoplasm of Stomach	3	2
Malignant Neoplasm of Lung, Bronchus ...	8	2
Malignant Neoplasm of Breast	—	5
Malignant Neoplasm of Uterus	—	3
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	20	14
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	—	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ...	14	20
Diabetes	2	—
Coronary Disease, Angina	34	18
Other Heart Diseases	36	48
Hypertension with Heart Disease	4	4
Other Diseases of Respiratory System ...	1	—
Other Circulatory Diseases	9	4
Pneumonia	3	4
Bronchitis	1	3
Influenza	—	3
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	—
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	1	—
Hyperplasia of Prostate	4	—
Congenital Malformations, etc.	3	1
Other Defined and Ill Defined Diseases ...	6	8
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	—
All other Accidents	3	4
All Causes	155	145
Total	300	

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

Tuberculosis

Hawley Sanatorium, situated in the Borough of Barnstaple, has 28 beds.

Maternity Cases

At the North Devon Infirmary there is a ward of 14 beds with a fully qualified staff available for cases of doubt or difficulty.

At Bicclescombe Hospital, Ilfracombe, there are 10 beds for Maternity and Ante-natal patients.

There are four beds at Braunton Nursing Home.

A General Practitioner Maternity Unit of 13 beds is situated at Highfield, Victoria Road, Barnstaple.

Isolation of Infectious Diseases

There is an Infectious Diseases Isolation Hospital at Bideford, the Kingsley Hospital, which serves Barnstaple as well as other Local Authorities in North Devon.

Small Pox

The Small Pox Hospital to which any cases of Small Pox will be sent is Upton Pine Hospital, near Exeter. Special Ambulance Transport can be obtained by contacting the Isolation Hospital, Whipton, Exeter. Telephone 67158.

General

The North Devon Infirmary, situated in Barnstaple, serves the Area, and provides modern Medical and Surgical treatment for the residents of the district.

Wards at the Alexandra Hospital are set aside as an annexe to the wards of the North Devon Infirmary, and post-operative and recovery patients are now transferred there as soon as practicable.

There are 101 beds for the chronic sick at the Alexandra Hospital.

At Braunton Nursing Home there are four beds for sick persons.

Laboratory Facilities

The Main Laboratory is situated at 7, Dix's Field, Exeter, and Dr. Moor is the Director. It is completely installed with the necessary equipment for bacteriological examinations of all kinds. Its diagnostic and consultative services are available for all patients. Bacteriological examinations of drinking water and milk are also carried out.

There is also a Pathological Laboratory at 75, Boutport Street, Barnstaple, with a full-time Pathologist and Technical Staff to meet the needs of the whole North Devon Area. The Blood Bank is also situated at this Laboratory.

Clinics and Treatment Centres

V.D. Clinic

This is held at the North Devon Infirmary Annexe.

Sessions:	Females	Males
Monday	4.00 p.m.	5.15 p.m.
Thursday	4.30 p.m.	5.45 p.m.

Chest Clinic

The Chest Clinic is held at the North Devon Infirmary, Glossop Annexe.

Sessions:

Tuesdays	9 a.m. to 1 p.m. 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.	Clinic and X-Ray Examinations
Thursdays	9 a.m. to 1 p.m. 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.	
Fridays	9 a.m. to 1 p.m. 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.	A.P. Refills

Ambulance Service

Under Section 27 of the National Health Service Act, 1945, the Local Health Authority (i.e. the Devon County Council) is responsible for the provision of an Ambulance Service, and the Devon Health Committee have arranged for this to be provided through the agency of the St. John Ambulance Association. The Brigade serves Barnstaple Borough and the District around, and the Headquarters are in Commercial Road, Barnstaple. The staff consists of three paid members (full-time), 20 men volunteers and 14 volunteer nurses. The Hospital car service, also under the

Devon County Council, is available upon application to the Hospital by the doctor concerned, and the Ambulance Service is empowered to hire cars in urgent cases when the Ambulance is not necessary.

Immunization against Diphtheria

During the year 331 children received primary injections; 253 children received re-inforcing injections.

Professional Nursing in the Homes

There are nine District Nurses in the area, all of whom act as Midwives.

Home Helps Scheme

This scheme was started in March, 1949, and is run by the W.V.S. for the Devon County Council. It covers Barnstaple Borough and Rural Areas, wherever transport is available, and the scheme is directed by Mrs. M. Hughes. There are now 60 Home Helps and 415 cases were dealt with in 1957, as compared with 54 Home Helps and 393 cases in 1956. Any case recommended by a Doctor, Health Visitor, or District Nurse, will be considered for a Home Help. The Home Helps do any work in the house normally done by the Housewife. Home Helps are now looking after 69 aged people, who are living by themselves and would otherwise have to go to hospital. During the year 1957, Home Helps rendered assistance in the homes of 15 maternity cases. 19 blind people also received assistance from the Service.

Prevalence of Infectious Diseases

The following Tables give particulars of the Infectious Diseases notified during the year, together with the distribution of cases and the age groups:

Names of Diseases	*No. Notified*
Scarlet Fever	2
Measles	76
Pneumonia	10
Whooping Cough	111
Food Poisoning	4
Erysipelas	2
Dysentery	13
Meningitis	1
Poliomyelitis	11
	230

During the year five fresh cases of Tuberculosis were notified in accordance with the regulations.

Age Period	*Pulmonary*		*Non-Pulmonary*	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
1 to 5 years	0	0	0	0
5 to 10 years	0	0	0	0
10 to 15 years	0	1	0	0
15 to 25 years	0	0	0	1
25 to 35 years	1	1	0	0
35 to 45 years	0	1	0	0
45 to 55 years	0	0	0	0
55 to 65 years	0	0	0	0
65 and over	0	0	0	0
Total ...	1	3	0	1

Tuberculosis—Distribution of Cases

Mortehoe	1
Fremington	2
Braunton	2
	5

Infectious Diseases—Age Periods

	Under 1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	*25 and over*	*unknown Age*	*Total*
Whooping Cough	5	30	26	37	3	3	4	3	111
Measles	—	13	13	44	3	1	1	1	76
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	1	—	8	1	10
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	4
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Meningitis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Dysentery	—	—	2	2	—	3	4	2	13
Poliomyelitis	—	2	3	1	—	3	2	—	11
Totals	6	45	44	86	7	10	25	7	230

Distribution of Infectious Diseases Cases Notified during 1957

Parish	Whooping Cough	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Pneumonia	Food Poisoning	Erysipelas	Meningitis	Dysentery	Polio-myelitis	TOTAL
Arlington										—
Ashford										—
Atherington	9									9
Berrynarbor										—
Bishopstawton ...	16			1						17
Bittadon										—
Bratton Fleming ...				1				1		2
Braunton		5							5	10
Brendon										—
Combe Martin ...		3							2	5
Countisbury		1								1
East Down										—
Fremington	44	19	1	3						67
Georgeham	1	3			4					8
Goodleigh	5									5
Heanton Punchardon	1	2		3					2	8
High Bray										—
Horwood	1	3								4
Instow		16								16
Kentisbury								1		1
Landkey	19	3								22
Loxhore	2									2
Martinhoe							1			1
Marwood			1	1						2
Mortehoe		5				1		11	2	19
Newton Tracey ...	2	9		1						12
Parracombe										—
Pilton West										—
Shirwell		2								2
Stoke Rivers	2									2
Swimbridge	7	2								9
Tawstock	2	1								3
Trentishoe										—
West Down		1								1
Westleigh		1				1				2
Totals	111	76	2	10	4	2	1	13	11 (3 Negative)	230

I desire to thank Mr. Marshall Wright and the Public Health Officers for their help to me.

Your obedient Servant,

F. J. H. MARTIN.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE CHIEF HEALTH INSPECTOR, ENGINEER, AND BUILDING SURVEYOR

The Red House,
Castle Street,
Barnstaple.
August, 1958

To the Chairman and Members of
the Barnstaple Rural District Council.

Mrs. Trebble and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my twelfth Annual Report of work carried out during 1957.

The area of your district is 129,346 acres, with an estimated population of 24,010.

In 1955, 98 houses were completed by private enterprise; in 1956—80 and in 1957—129. These figures reflect the prosperity of the building industry in North Devon and from the number of planning proposals approved recently, one can safely assume that this rate of building will be maintained for some years to come. A high percentage of these new houses are purchased by families coming into the area from other parts of the country. Many of them come here to retire, but certain proportion are younger families with husbands or children expecting to obtain employment in the district. Whilst the healthy condition of the building industry is a matter for satisfaction, this influx of population could add to the seasonal

unemployment problems of the area, as the provision of industry in North Devon is not related to the growth of the population.

Holiday traffic in North Devon continues to increase from year to year but unfortunately we do not appear to be providing the services required to deal with this influx. More public conveniences are required, particularly at Woolacombe and Putsborough, but a public convenience in every village would be a distinct advantage.

The provision of adequate caravan and camping sites is also a matter requiring serious consideration. The peak summer season is usually the last fortnight in July and the first fortnight in August when the lack of sufficient public conveniences and camping sites is felt. The authorised camping sites are large enough to deal with normal traffic but it is during the peak period that they are incapable of meeting the demand. It is then that unauthorised sites appear in many parts of the area. One must exercise a sense of proportion in the matter however and it is doubtful whether the expenditure in equipping additional sites for this short period would be justified.

The collection of litter is another activity which has received particular attention during the past year. Additional litter bins have been placed in many of the lay-bys and other roadside spots where cars seem to congregate and it is proposed next year to increase the number considerably. Unfortunately many people still show lack of consideration in the disposal of their litter. They visit the beauty spots

with which North Devon abounds and then desecrate these very spots with litter and other waste matter.

Good progress has been made with the Instow sewerage scheme which should be complete and in operation by early summer and a start has been made on the final stages of the Taw South Bank sewerage scheme. On the completion of this contract in about a year's time, all the sewage from Barnstaple Long Bridge to Instow, which for generations has been discharging into the River Taw, will be delivered direct to the sewage works at Yelland.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS

The total number of Inspections, Re-visits and Interviews during the year was 4,677, made up as follows:—

Visits re Infectious Diseases	—
Water Supplies	48
Number of Drains inspected and tested	472
Sewers	681
Sewage Disposal Works	72
Housing Repairs	22
National Assistance Act	—
Housing Act Inspections	89
Coast Protection	10
Building Byelaws	571
Town and Country Planning Act	560
Inspection of Slaughter Houses	510
Inspection of Food Premises	171
Meat and Foods Inspection	842
Ice Cream Premises	6
Milk Retailers	7
Public Cleansing	22
Inspections under the Petroleum Acts	16
Public Health Act Inspections, Nuisances, etc. ...	214
Bakehouses	—
Rodent Control	9
Factories, Workshops, etc.	19
Public Conveniences	71
Tents, Vans, Sheds and Camping Sites	138
Visits to Refuse Tips	41
Schools	4
Number of Council and Committee Meetings attended	82

SUMMARY OF MEAT INSPECTIONS

Animals	*Inspected*	*Condemned Carcases*	*Condemned Portions*	
			T.B.	*Other Causes*
Sheep ...	7,218	26		94 Livers
Pigs ...	2,610	3	32 Heads	9 Plucks
Bullocks	371	2	7 Heads & Lungs	428 lbs.
Calves ...	118	1		

Disposal of Carcases deposited on Foreshore

Animal carcases are still being deposited around the foreshore from time to time. Arrangements have to be made for disposal, usually by burial in lime on the foreshore.

Total Notices (Served as under)

Public Health Act, 1936 4
Housing Acts 11

Swimming Pools

The only Swimming Pool in the district is situated on the seashore and is privately owned. The pool is covered by every tide.

Offensive Trades

Byelaws are in operation for the control of Offensive Trades. There is one in the district: the Tannery at Swimbridge.

Underground Sleeping Rooms

There is no need for regulations in this area in respect of underground sleeping rooms.

Tents, Vans and Sheds

Byelaws are in force relating to the above.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955

Food Hygiene Regulations. 171 inspections of registered food premises were made during the year and regular attention was paid to hotel kitchens. Generally the standard of cleanliness in hotel kitchens was found to be satisfactory but where the standard was otherwise, informal action was sufficient to obtain the necessary improvement. As many of the premises in your area cater for summer visitors, this aspect of public health work will receive special attention during the coming year.

Inspection and Supervision of Food

Regular visits have been made to food shops, in addition to slaughterhouses, and where necessary certain items of tinned food have been condemned, in some cases due to rust and leakage following damage to tins during transport and through length of time in stock, and in others for putrefaction of the contents.

The method of disposal of condemned tinned foods was by burial or burning in the Barnstaple Borough Council's incinerator.

Water

14 Water Samples were taken, 10 of which proved satisfactory. Advice was given in the case of the unsatisfactory results in an endeavour to effect improvements.

Farm Water Supplies

Several Farm Water Supplies were investigated at the request of the Agricultural Executive Committee during the year.

Coast Protection

Regular inspections are made of the banks and defences generally around your coast. Two cases requiring attention have been notified to the responsible owners who have carried out the necessary work.

Factories Act, 1937 (Sections 110 and 111)

OUTWORKERS

Nature of Work	*Section 110*		*Section 111*			
	No of out-workers in August list required by Sec. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of Prosecutions for failing to supply lists	No of Instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)		
Wearing Apparel (Making etc.)	20	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	20	—	—	—	—	—

FACTORIES ACT, 1937—PART I OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provision as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector).

Premises (1)	*Number on Register* (2)	*Number of*		
		Inspections (3)	*Written Notices* (4)	*Occupiers Prosecuted* (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	16	3	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	56	13	Nil	Nil
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	6	2	Nil	Nil
Total	78	18	Nil	Nil

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars (1)	*Number of cases in which defects were found*				*Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted*
	Found (2)	*Remedied* (3)	*Referred* *To H.M. Inspector* (4)	*Referred* *By H.M. Inspector* (5)	(6)
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)					
Overcrowding (S.2)					
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...					
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)					
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...					
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(*a*) Insufficient					
(*b*) Unsuitable or defective ...					
(*c*) Not separate for sexes					
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)					
Total	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

BUILDING SURVEYOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

The Red House,
Castle Street,
Barnstaple.
September, 1958.

To the Chairman and Members of
the Barnstaple Rural District Council.

Mrs. Trebble and Gentlemen,

I beg to present the following Report on the activities of the Building Surveyor's Department during the year 1957.

PLANS

Details of Plans Submitted

No. approved under Bye-laws	65
No. disapproved under Bye-laws	4
No. approved under Town Planning ...	302
No. disapproved under Town Planning ...	34
No. decision given under Town Planning ...	4
No. withdrawn after formal submission ...	7
No. of houses completed during the year:—	
(1) By Private Enterprise	129
(2) By Local Authority	26

I wish to record my thanks to each member of the Council, to Mr. Wright, Dr. Martin and to all members of the Department for their support and consideration during the past year.

I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation to Mr. Wright, with whom I have had many years of amicable association, and to wish him a happy retirement and to welcome our new Clerk, Mr. E. Harwood.

I am, Mrs. Trebble and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
ARTHUR J. DENNIS.